

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A
1. A method of regulating user interface controls, the method comprising:
identifying a grouping from among a plurality of groupings; and
providing a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping.

Sub C7
2. The method of claim 1 in which providing the set of user interface controls comprises displaying the set as a bank of controls.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the bank of user interface controls comprises a toolbar.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface controls include a button.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface controls include a pull-down menu control.

Sub C8
6. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the set of user interface controls comprises changing an existing collection of user interface controls.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein changing a collection comprises adding a user interface control.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein changing a collection comprises removing a user interface control.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein changing a collection comprises changing an existing control into a different control.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein changing an existing control comprises eliminating or adding menu choices provided by a pull-down menu control.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings comprise groupings based on user maturity.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the groupings based on user maturity include a kids grouping.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the groupings based on user maturity include a teenagers grouping.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings correspond to access levels to network service provider services.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the network service provider services comprise e-mail.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the network service provider services comprise network browsing.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the network service provider services comprise chat sessions.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the grouping comprises receiving user information, and based on the received user information, determining the grouping.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein receiving user information comprises receiving user information via a network connection.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

Sub A3
21. The method of claim 20, further comprising accessing user information in a database based on the user identifier.

22. The method of claim 1, further comprising associating a grouping with a user.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein associating the grouping comprises selecting from a plurality of groupings.

Sub A4
24. The method of claim 22, wherein associating the grouping comprises identifying user characteristics.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein user characteristics comprise age.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein associating the grouping comprises identifying services that the user is permitted to access.

Sub C10
27. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the set of user interface controls comprises receiving information from a remote site describing the set.

Sub A5
28. A method of producing a toolbar having user interface controls, the method comprising:
associating a grouping with a user identifier by selecting a grouping from a plurality of groupings, the grouping corresponding to different maturity levels;
receiving a user identifier over a network connection;
determining the grouping associated with the user identifier;
using the determined grouping to produce a toolbar having user interface controls, the user interface controls included in the toolbar being based on the grouping associated with the user identifier.

29. A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

identify a grouping from among a plurality of groupings; and
provide a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping.

30. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions for causing the computer to provide the set of user interface controls comprise instructions for causing the computer to display the set as a bank of controls.

31. The computer program of claim 30, wherein the bank of user interface controls comprises a toolbar.

32. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the user interface controls include a button.

33. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the user interface controls include a pull-down menu control.

34. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to provide the set of user interface controls comprise instructions for causing a computer to change an existing collection of user interface controls.

35. The computer program of claim 34, wherein the instructions for causing the computer to change an existing collection comprise instructions for causing the computer to add a user interface control.

36. The computer program of claim 34, wherein the instructions for causing the computer to change an existing collection comprise instructions for causing the computer to remove a user interface control from the existing collection.

37. The computer program of claim 34, wherein the instructions for causing the computer to change an existing collection comprise instructions for causing the computer to change an existing control into a different control.

38. The computer program of claim 37, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to change the existing control comprise instructions that cause the computer to eliminate or add menu choices provided by a pull-down menu control.

39. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the groupings comprise groupings based on user maturity.

40. The computer program of claim 39, wherein the groupings based on user maturity include a kids grouping.

41. The computer program of claim 39, wherein the groupings based on user maturity include a teenagers grouping.

42. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the groupings correspond to access levels granted to network service provider services.

43. The computer program of claim 42, wherein the network service provider services comprise e-mail.

44. The computer program of claim 42, wherein the network service provider services comprise network browsing.

45. The computer program of claim 42, wherein the network service provider services comprise chat sessions.

Sub A4
46. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to identify the grouping comprise instructions for causing the computer to:
receive user information, and
based on the received user information, determine the grouping.

47. The computer program of claim 46, wherein the instructions for causing a computer to receive user information comprise instructions for causing a computer to receive user information via a network connection.

48. The computer program of claim 46, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

Sub A7
49. The computer program of claim 46, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to access user information in a database based on the user identifier.

50. The computer program of claim 29, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to associate a grouping with a user.

51. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the instructions for causing a computer to associate the grouping with a user comprise instructions for causing a computer to receive a selection made between a plurality of groupings.

Sub A8
52. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to associate the grouping with a user comprise instructions that cause the computer to identify user characteristics.

53. The computer program of claim 52, wherein user characteristics comprise age.

Sub A⁹ }
54. The computer program of claim 50, wherein the instructions for causing a computer to associate the grouping with the user comprise instructions for causing a user to identify services that the user is permitted to access.

Sub C¹⁴ }
55. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to provide the set of user interface controls comprise instructions that cause the computer to transmit information to a remote site describing the set of controls.

Add A¹⁰ }
Add C¹⁶ }

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